

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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ROME FOR FAA REP

E.O. 11652: N/A, DECONTROL 1-1-80

TAGS: EINV, EAIR, MT

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR MIACO MOVE TO SAFI LOOK FAVORABLE

REF: VALLETTA 2869

1. MIACO DIRECTOR REICHERT INFORMED EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 7 THAT HE HAD MET, EARLIER THAT DAY, WITH RAF AIR COMMODORE DESMOND HALL, MALTA DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION ATTARD AND AIR MALTA GENERAL MANAGER FALZON, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MIACO MOVE TO HANGER SPACE AT SAFI. REICHERT REPORTED THAT MEETING WENT WELL AND THAT WHILE SOME PROBLEMS MIGHT DEVELOP IN WORKING OUT THE TIMING OF THE MOVE, THESE DIFFICULTIES SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE.

2. WHILE EXPRESSING OPTIMISM THAT MIACO WOULD HAVE NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN RELOCATING TO SAFI, REICHERT NOTED THAT THE COMING FEW MONTHS WOULD POSE SOME PROBLEMS FOR THE COMPANY. BESIDES DISRUPTIONS TO COMPANY OPERATIONS CAUSED BY RELOCATION, AND THE REMAINING UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING TIMING OF MOVE, COST TO COMPANY OF OPERATING IN MALTA WILL INCREASE SOMEWHAT. THE GOM HAS INFORMED

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REICHERT THAT MIACO WILL HAVE TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SHORT (ABOUT FIFTY METER) TAXIWAY CONNECTING THE SAFI HANGER AREA WITH THE LUQA AIRPORT RUNWAY. IN ADDITION, THE GOM SAID THAT THE COMPANY WILL HAVE TO PAY RENT TO THE MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (WHICH WILL TAKE OVER SAFI FROM UK) FOR SAFI PREMISES (COMPANY HAD BEEN PAYING RENT OF ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR TO THE RAF FOR

RENTAL OF SPACE AT HAL FAR). REICHERT ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE COMPANY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MDC "EMPLOYMENT TARGETS" BUT DID NOT FORESEE THIS AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: MIACO'S PROBLEMS ARE NOT OVER YET BUT THE PROSPECTS FOR RELOCATING THE COMPANY LOOK GOOD. THE BRITISH ARE BEING COOPERATIVE AND, PROVIDING THE GOM DOES NOT ENFORCE ITS SEPTEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR RELOCATING THE COMPANY, WE THINK THAT AN ARRANGEMENT SATISFACTORY TO ALL THE INVOLVED PARTIES WILL PROBABLY BE ACHIEVED.
WILSON

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